



General Assembly

January Session, 2007

**Committee Bill No. 5110**

LCO No. 5108

\*05108HB05110KID\*

Referred to Committee on Select Committee on Children

Introduced by:  
(KID)

**AN ACT CONCERNING ENFORCEMENT OF BULLYING POLICIES  
AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A SAFE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT FOR  
CHILDREN AND YOUTH.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2007*) (a) The Department of  
2 Education shall conduct an analysis of safe learning policies and  
3 practices in school districts, including bullying policies developed  
4 pursuant to section 10-222d of the general statutes. The analysis shall  
5 (1) examine the effectiveness of such policies and practices in reducing  
6 bullying and harassment in schools, (2) report on the relationship of  
7 bullying to the incidence of school dropout and student suicide, (3)  
8 document school districts' articulated needs for technical assistance  
9 and training related to safe learning and bullying, (4) report on the  
10 prevention and intervention strategies utilized by schools to reduce the  
11 incidence of bullying, and (5) report on the department's response to  
12 the needs identified in subdivision (3) of this subsection. On or before  
13 January 1, 2008, and annually thereafter, the department shall submit a  
14 report on the analysis, in accordance with section 11-4a of the general  
15 statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly  
16 having cognizance of matters relating to education and to the select

17 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
18 relating to children.

19 (b) The department may accept private donations for purposes of  
20 this section.

21 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2007*) (a) There is established an  
22 independent Office of School Bullying Ombudsman which shall be  
23 within the Department of Education for administrative purposes only.

24 (b) The office shall be under the direction of a School Bullying  
25 Ombudsman who shall be appointed by the Governor, with the  
26 approval of the General Assembly. The ombudsman shall be an elector  
27 of the state with expertise and experience in the fields related to  
28 education and school bullying.

29 (c) The ombudsman shall:

30 (1) Endeavor to resolve complaints concerning bullying in public  
31 schools, and receive recommendations from the public regarding the  
32 reduction of bullying in public schools;

33 (2) Make recommendations to the Commissioner of Education  
34 concerning issues relating to bullying in public schools;

35 (3) Report monthly to the State Board of Education regarding the  
36 activities of the office; and

37 (4) Not later than January 1, 2009, and annually thereafter, submit a  
38 report on the activities of the office, in accordance with section 11-4a of  
39 the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General  
40 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education, and the  
41 select committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of  
42 matters relating to children.

43 Sec. 3. Section 10-222d of the general statutes is repealed and the  
44 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2007*):

45 Each local and regional board of education shall develop a policy,  
46 for use on and after February 1, 2003, to address the existence of  
47 bullying in its schools. Such policy shall: (1) Enable students to  
48 anonymously report acts of bullying to teachers and school  
49 administrators and require students to be notified annually of the  
50 process by which they may make such reports, (2) enable the parents  
51 or guardians of students to file written reports of suspected bullying,  
52 (3) require teachers and other school staff who witness acts of bullying  
53 or receive student reports of bullying to notify school administrators,  
54 (4) require school administrators to investigate any written reports  
55 filed pursuant to subdivision (2) of this section and to review any  
56 anonymous reports, (5) include an intervention strategy for school staff  
57 to deal with bullying, (6) provide for the inclusion of language in  
58 student codes of conduct concerning bullying, (7) require the parents  
59 or guardians of students who commit any verified acts of bullying and  
60 the parents or guardians of students against whom such acts were  
61 directed to be notified, (8) require each school to maintain a list of the  
62 number of student reports of bullying, including reports received  
63 through the anonymous telephone hotline, established pursuant to  
64 section 4 of this act, written reports of suspected bullying submitted by  
65 parents or guardians of students and verified acts of bullying in such  
66 school and make such list available for public inspection, and (9) direct  
67 the development of case-by-case interventions for addressing repeated  
68 incidents of bullying against a single individual or recurrently  
69 perpetrated bullying incidents by the same individual that may  
70 include both counseling and discipline. Such discipline may include  
71 suspension of the student, pursuant to section 10-233c, or expulsion of  
72 the student, pursuant to section 10-233d. The notification required  
73 pursuant to subdivision (7) of this section shall include a description of  
74 the response of school staff to such acts and any consequences that  
75 may result from the commission of further acts of bullying, including  
76 the possibility of suspension or expulsion of the student who commits  
77 any verified acts of bullying. For purposes of this section, "bullying"  
78 means any overt acts by a student or a group of students directed

79 against another student with the intent to ridicule, harass, humiliate or  
80 intimidate the other student while on school grounds, at a school-  
81 sponsored activity or on a school bus, which acts are repeated against  
82 the same student over time. Such policies may include provisions  
83 addressing bullying outside of the school setting if it has a direct and  
84 negative impact on a student's academic performance or safety in  
85 school.

86 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2007*) (a) The Commissioner of Public  
87 Safety shall establish a state-wide toll-free anonymous telephone  
88 hotline that shall be dedicated to receiving anonymous reports of acts  
89 of violence committed in public schools, including bullying as defined  
90 in section 10-222d of the general statutes. The commissioner shall  
91 forward the reports to the appropriate local law enforcement authority  
92 and local or regional board of education for action.

93 (b) Each local or regional board of education shall develop, adopt  
94 and implement written policies and procedures concerning the receipt  
95 of anonymous reports of acts of violence pursuant to subsection (a) of  
96 this section. Such policies shall require school administrators to (1)  
97 investigate such reports, (2) consult with the Office of School Bullying  
98 Ombudsman established pursuant to section 2 of this act, and (3) take  
99 appropriate action.

100 (c) Each local or regional board of education shall conduct an  
101 educational awareness campaign to promote the hotline established  
102 pursuant to subsection (a) of this section. Such campaign shall include,  
103 but need not be limited to, the issuance of press releases and the  
104 distribution of pamphlets, posters and wallet cards for schools and  
105 students. Each local or regional board of education shall require  
106 schools under its jurisdiction to conduct mandatory educational  
107 forums to inform students and staff of the hotline not later than fifteen  
108 days after the first day of the school year.

109 Sec. 5. (*Effective July 1, 2007*) The Department of Education shall use

110 any funds received pursuant to the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and  
111 Communities Act, as amended from time to time, to carry out the  
112 activities described in section 4 of this act.

113 Sec. 6. (*Effective July 1, 2007*) The sum of one million dollars is  
114 appropriated to the Department of Education, from the General Fund,  
115 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008, for the purpose of funding  
116 grants pursuant to section 10-263e of the general statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	10-222d
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	New section

***Statement of Purpose:***

To examine the effectiveness of school responses to bullying, establish a state ombudsperson to resolve complaints related to bullying, fund grants to create safe learning environments in schools and enforce bullying policies and establish a state-wide anonymous school violence hotline.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*

Co-Sponsors: REP. TRUGLIA, 145th Dist.; SEN. HERLIHY, 8th Dist.  
REP. MUSHINSKY, 85th Dist.

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